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Mobile Information Literacy: Mobilising existing models?

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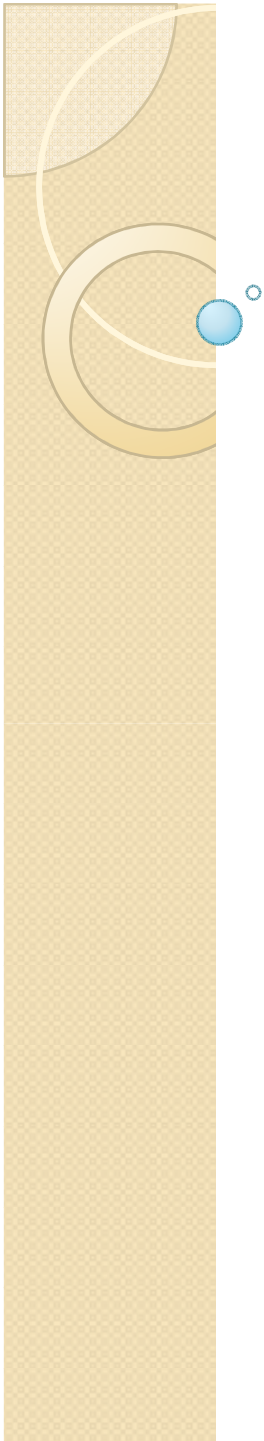
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Handheld Information Literacy

Mobilising existing models?

Andrew Walsh,
HHL4,
24th Feb 2011.

Where I'm from...



Back to mobiles & IL





Facts & figures

- Neilsonwire forecast that by the end of 2011 more smartphones will be sold in the US than “normal” standard mobile phones...



Development of IL

When was the term “information literacy” first used?

1. 1968
2. 1974
3. 1982
4. 1990
5. 2001



Early Information Literacy

Paul Zurkowski (1974): *“people trained in the application of information resources to their work can be called information literates. They have learned techniques and skills for using the wide range of information tools as well as primary sources in molding information solutions to their problems.”*



Early Information Literacy

According to Taylor (1979) the elements that any definition of information literacy should include :

- That solutions to many (not all) problems can be aided by the acquisition of appropriate facts and information.
- That knowledge of the variety of information resources available (who and where) is a requisite of this literacy.
- That the informing process, which is continual, is as important as the spot information process which is occasional.
- That there are strategies (when and how) of information acquisition.



Fleshing out the concept

- Early 1990s onwards dominated by Delphi study by Doyle (1992)
- Long lists of “attributes”
- Fed into standards and models such as:
 - ACRL standards (ACRL, 2000)
 - CAUL standards (Council of Australian University Librarians, 2001/2004)
 - SCONUL 7 pillars model (SCONUL Task Force on Information Skills, 1999)
 - Big Blue model (JISC, 2002)



The alternative: relational models

- Christine Bruce (1997) “seven faces”
- Sylvia Edwards (2006) “Net Lenses” model

The differences (from Bruce, 1997)

Doyle's (1992) picture of information literacy	The relational picture of information literacy
Derived from scholars' views	Derived from users' experiences
Derived from seeking consensus	Derived from seeking variation
Derived using the Delphi technique	Derived using phenomenography
Recommends constructivist approaches to teaching and learning	Recomends relational approaches to teaching and learning
Sees information literacy as measurable	Does not see information literacy as measurable
Sees information literacy as definable	Sees information literacy as describable
Sees information literacy as quantifiable, asks how much has been learned?	Does not see information literacy as quantifiable, asks what has been learned
Portrays information literacy in terms of attributes of persons	Portrays information literacy in terms of conceptions, i.e. subject-object relations
Focuses on personal qualities of the individual apart from the environment	Focuses on personal qualities in relation to the environment



Bringing mobiles into IL

- Existing models have weaknesses flagged up by “relational” models
- Existing models essentially pre-world wide web, pre-mobile 1980s, early 1990s in nature

Four areas where mobile IL varies

	“Fixed” IL	“Mobile” IL
Where?	Largely in “set” places. At a desktop computer (with little variation in software); at a fixed workplace; within a library.	Anywhere; any mobile device (phone, games device, eBook reader – massive variation in device).
What?	Anything?	Normally quick information, often context or location specific?.
How?	Range of established tools to access and manage wide range of information sources. Standard search engines.	Often narrow Apps and individual specialist sites rather than open web.
Time spent?	Varies. Often slow, long access. People spending long periods searching for, organising and extracting information, especially for academic use.	Quick / Fast only. Shorter searches. Little pondering and extracting information. Favour short chunks of info. “Convenience” of device.



Concluding thoughts...

- Desire for information on the move
- Competency based IL models don't cut the mustard any more
- Need to research & define mobile IL to equip us for the near future



A (select) bibliography pt I

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Thanks for listening

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- More stuff at <http://bit.ly/lilacAW>
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